

07 Nov 05

Family and Friends of TF Eagle,

TF Eagle has arrived at our new home for the immediate future. Our journey was long but not too grueling. We left our "Flyers Nest", Fliegerhorst Kaserne and traveled by bus to Rhein Ordnance Barracks where we were quickly processed through and sent to board our ride to our Area of Operations. The ride it turned out was an Air Force C-17 Globemaster. Our aircraft was full of people but very little cargo, which left our Soldiers with plenty of space to stretch out and get some catnapping in. Our flight was otherwise completely un-eventful. We arrived at Bagram Air Field Afghanistan very late at night local time, and were received warmly by everybody there. From the members of Task Force Griffin (12<sup>th</sup> Avn Bde) to the Airmen who ran the passenger terminal. The paperwork for inprocessing was cut to a minimum, and we were rapidly rushed off to where our sleeping quarters and a very welcome hot meal. Our advanced party left early the next morning to start the processing of replacing TF Griffin as the C2 element of our multinational task force. Our main body, was to follow 3 days later and received a very interesting ride over in 3 CH-47 Chinook helicopters of our task force. Our Soldiers accompanying our vehicle and other equipment flew out with no problems and got to spend the night in Turkey (not a scheduled event as far we knew), but they flew in the next day, and now our entire Task Force is safely assembled at QASIM Air Base.

Our new Living Support Area is exactly that, new. It is, thanks to the inventiveness of the several people involved in putting it together, the best LSA in the operation. We have bunk-beds instead of cots; three hot meals a day (no one else does), contracted out to a

local catering service, which gives our meals a decidedly international taste, but the food is very good and of very high quality. We have plenty of showers available and just installed a water heater that heats 650 gallons an hour. We are living in brand new tents that will soon be wired for electricity and heat. The tents are inside of a maintenance hangar so staying dry and warm should not be a problem. We are continuing to make improvements, and new Dining Facility should be completed soon. We have satellite receivers on order, and some gym equipment on the way. There are two MWR phones available, but we have to limit phone calls to 15 minutes a piece to be fair to all. We also have six MWR computers available for Soldiers to use for email. Our hosts are unbelievably friendly. Everyone one you meet immediately wants to shake your hand; and all of them are very helpful. Overall our living conditions are excellent and in many cases better than some Forward Operating Bases in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our Task Force is a true Joint and Multinational effort as well. We currently have elements from the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, the National Guard (from Kansas, Texas, Washington State, and Colorado), the Navy, and a contingent from the British Royal Air Force. Everyone is working together in such a manner that you would think we trained together for months. Off Duty everyone seems to be getting along as well. The Brits are sponsoring a Darts tournament tonight, and we are also having a Bazaar. Dinner is a family style affair; served from a buffet with everybody sitting and eating together. New friendships are forming daily. Between all of these units and the many aviation units of the Pakistani military, there is a lot of patch swapping going on as well.

Our mission proceeds well, and everybody is working hard to ensure that the mission happens. The news was right, we are needed here, and as our soldiers talk to the crews who have been flying the missions and in some cases accompany them, all understand the great importance of what we are endeavoring. The relief is needed and appreciated. The earthquake victims are depending on us to give them the help they need to survive the winter and rebuild their lives. The overall attitude of the people we are helping is very friendly and very very appreciative. Our morale is high and we will continue to strive to bring all the relief and aide that we can to truly “Where Eagles Dare”.

ROBERT L. JOHNSON  
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Commanding